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Applicant : Walters
Filed : June 2, 2000
TC/A.U. : 2141
Examiner : Kang, Paul H.
Docket No. : 6169-130
IBM Docket No. : BOC8-1999-0072

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22203-1450

Sir:

I, Glen R. Walters, a citizen of the United States of America, residing at 5320 Pierce Street, Hollywood, FL 33021, hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I was employed by International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) of Boca Raton, Florida at the time the above-identified application was conceived and continue to be employed by IBM. I make this declaration in support the above-identified application.

2. IBM has invested substantial time and effort into the research, development, and marketing of their products, and in an effort to protect its rights in all new inventions, IBM requests that all employees prepare and submit IBM Confidential Invention Disclosure Forms upon conception by the inventor(s).

3. As the named inventor for this invention, I submitted the attached IBM Confidential Invention Disclosure BOC8-1999-0080.

4. I make this Declaration to establish that I conceived of the present invention at least as early as July 28, 1999, and exercised due diligence from prior to July 28, 1999 to June 2, 2000, the filing date for the above-identified patent application.

(WP162509:1)

5. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above-identified patent application or any patent issuing thereon.

Glen R. Walters
Glen R. Walters
Date: 12/29/03

STATE OF FLORIDA)
COUNTY OF PALM BEACH) ss:

The foregoing instrument was sworn to and subscribed before me this 29 day of December, 2003, by GLEN R. WALTERS, who is personally known to me or who has produced _____ (type of identification) as identification.

Elaine P. Venturilli
NOTARY PUBLIC,
STATE OF FLORIDA

ELAINE P. VENTURILLI
(Print, Type or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)



(WP162608-1)



Disclosure BOC8-1999-0080

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Required fields are marked with the asterisk (*) and must be filled in to complete the form.

Summary

Status	Under Evaluation
Processing Location	BOC
Functional Area	Telecommunications & Media
Attorney/Patent Professional	Richard Tomlin/Boca Raton/IBM
IDT Team	Edie Stern/Fort Lauderdale/IBM, John Bottomley/Bethesda/IBM
Submitted Date	07/28/99 12:27:56 PM
Owning Division	GI
PVT Score	To calculate a PVT score, use the 'Calculate PVT' button

Inventors with Lotus Notes IDs

Inventors: Glen Walters/Fort Lauderdale/IBM

Inventor Name > denotes primary contact	Inventor Serial	Div/Dept	Manager Serial	Manager Name
Walters, Glen R.	942789	45/9DQA	402512	Deas, H. (Happy)

Inventors without Lotus Notes IDs

IDT Selection

IDT Team:	Attorney/Patent Professional:
Edie Stern/Fort Lauderdale/IBM	Richard Tomlin/Boca Raton/IBM
John Bottomley/Bethesda/IBM	

Response Due to IP&L : 08/28/99

Main Idea

*Title of disclosure (In English)

A Method for Preventing Deep Linking into a Web Site

*Idea of disclosure

1. Describe your invention, stating the problem solved (if appropriate), and indicating the advantages of using the invention.

One of the most powerful features of HTML (the language of the World Wide Web) is its ability to link to content, potentially on other servers. This technique, however, has a potential for abuse when the author of a document is not the owner of the linked content. See, for example, <http://www.wired.com/news/news/politics/story/20948.html>

This story concerns a web site called "Movie-List". This web site contains descriptions of current movies, along with links to trailers, which typically reside on servers owned and operated by the movie studios (e.g. Universal). This is where the problem arises. If Movie-List were to link to the beginning of the studio's

A Method for Preventing Deep Linking into a web Site - continued

web site (e.g. <http://www.universalstudios.com/>) there would be no problem. Instead they have decided to link directly to the desired content itself (e.g. <http://www.americanpiemovie.com/media/americanpie-160x120-fs-10fps.mov>, which is a trailer for the current Universal movie "American Pie").

This practice is called "Deep Linking", because the author is linking deep into Universal's web site, instead of taking the visitor to the "front door". There are several problems with this:

- 1) It eliminates any disclaimers or advertising on the linked-to web site
- 2) It makes the content appear to come from the linked-from web site.
- 3) The link itself could be "broken" (i.e. the file has been moved), which may make the linked-to web site appear to be the problem

The solution:

The solution to this problem depends on a header sent by the client indicating where the link came from. Here is the description from RFC 2068:

14.37 Referer

The Referer[sic] request-header field allows the client to specify, for the server's benefit, the address (URI) of the resource from which the Request-URI was obtained (the "referrer", although the header field is misspelled). The Referer request-header allows a server to generate lists of back-links to resources for interest, logging, optimized caching, etc. It also allows obsolete or mistyped links to be traced for maintenance. The Referer field MUST NOT be sent if the Request-URI was obtained from a source that does not have its own URI, such as input from the user keyboard.

Referer = "Referer" ":" (absoluteURI | relativeURI)

Example:

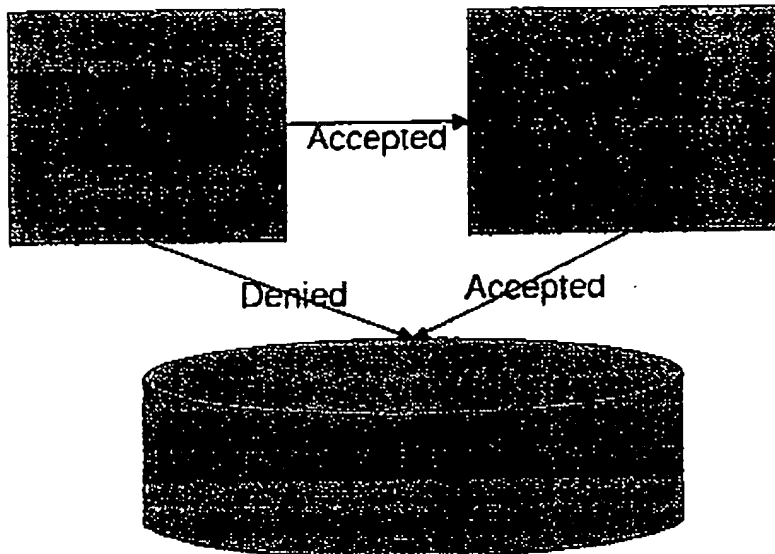
Referer: <http://www.w3.org/hypertext/DataSources/Overview.html>

This could be used to determine what page (the "official" site or an outsider) the user was looking at when they clicked the link to the trailer. An enhanced web server (or a server extension, such as a Java servlet, for existing web servers) could enforce a referer requirement before serving the protected content.

2. How does the invention solve the problem or achieve an advantage.(a description of "the invention", including figures inline as appropriate)?

The invention prevents the use of deep linking wherever specified. Certain files (or even an entire site, with the obvious exception of the front page) could be prevented from being linked to by anything other than the site itself. Alternatively, "friendly sites" could be included in the list of appropriate referers.

A Method for Preventing Deep Linking into a Web Site - continued



In the above example, "Joe's Web Site" would like to provide its users with the latest version of the Netscape web browser. Linking directly to the installation executable (netscape.exe) has been denied (since the referer would indicate "http://www.joeswebsite.com/"), but linking to Netscape's front page has been accepted. Linking from anywhere on Netscape's site to the installation executable is, of course, accepted.

3. If the same advantage or problem has been identified by others (inside/outside IBM), how have those others solved it and does your solution differ and why is it better?

As indicated by the story referred to above (on the Wired web site), the current solution seems to be to issue a letter asking the offending web site to cease and desist. If this did not work, the owner of the content may attempt to sue on grounds of copyright infringement. Obviously, this would be a difficult case to win, since placing the content on the web in the first place tends to make it publicly accessible. It is much better if you can make it **not** publicly accessible.

4. If the invention is implemented in a product or prototype, include technical details, purpose, disclosure details to others and the date of that implementation.
No current implementation.

***Critical Questions (Questions 1 - 7 must be answered)**

***Question 1**

On what date was the invention workable? 07/28/99 Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY (Workable means i.e. when you know that your design will solve the problem)

***Question 2**

Is there any planned or actual publication or disclosure of your invention to anyone outside IBM?

☐ Yes
☒ No

A Method for Preventing Deep Linking into a Web Site - continued

If yes, Enter the name of each publication or patent and the date published below.	
Publication/Patent: Date Published or Issued:	
Are you aware of any publications, products or patents that relate to this invention?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If yes, Enter the name of each publication or patent and the date published below.	
Publication/Patent: Date Published or Issued:	

*Question 3		<input type="radio"/> Yes
Has the subject matter of the invention or a product incorporating the invention been sold, used internally in manufacturing, announced for sale, or included in a proposal?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Is a sale, use in manufacturing, product announcement, or proposal planned?		<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If Yes, identify the product if known and indicate the date or planned date of sale, announcements, or proposal and to whom the sale, announcement or proposal has been or will be made.		
Product Version/Release Code Name Date To Whom		
If more than one, use cut and paste and append as necessary in the field provided.		

*Question 4		<input type="radio"/> Yes
Was the subject matter of your invention or a product incorporating your invention used in public, e.g., outside IBM or in the presence of non-IBMers?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If yes, give a date. Please format the date as MM/DD/YYYY		

*Question 5		<input type="radio"/> Yes
Have you ever discussed your invention with others not employed at IBM?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
If yes, identify individuals and date discussed. Fill in the text area with the following information, the names of the individuals, the employer, date discussed, under CDA, and CDA #		

*Question 6		<input type="radio"/> Yes
Was the invention, in any way, started or developed under a government contract or project?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
		<input type="radio"/> Not sure
If Yes, enter the contract number		

*Question 7		<input type="radio"/> Yes
Was the invention made in the course of any alliance, joint development or other contract activities?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
		<input type="radio"/> Not Sure
If Yes, enter the following :Name of Alliance, Contractor or Joint Developer		
Contract ID number		
Relationship contact name		
Relationship contact E-mail		
Relationship contact phone		

Question 8		<input type="radio"/> Yes
Have you submitted, or are you aware of, any related disclosure submission?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> No

A Method for Preventing Deep Linking into a Web Site - continued

If Yes, please provide the title and docket or disclosure number below:

Question 9

What type of companies do you expect to compete with inventions of this type? *Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Manufacturers of enterprise servers
- ☐ Manufacturers of entry servers
- ☐ Manufacturers of workstations
- ☐ Manufacturers of PC's
- ☐ Non-computer manufacturers
- ☐ Developers of operating systems
- ☒ Developers of networking software
- ☐ Developers of application software
- ☐ Integrated solution providers
- ☐ Service providers
- ☐ Other (Please specify below)

Patent Value Tool (Optional - this may be used by the inventor and attorney to assist with the evaluation)

(The Patent Value tool can be used by you or the evaluation team to determine the potential licensing value of your invention.)

The Patent Value Tool has not yet been used to calculate a score

Post Disclosure Text & Drawings

Enter any additional information relating to this disclosure below.

(Form Revised 12/17/97)